(d) and (e) The National Population Policy adopted by Government of India in February, 2000 advocates for small family norm.

The family welfare programme is voluntary and promotive in nature which enables the couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion.

Decline in Sex Ratio

2151. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Drastic fall in country's sex ratio", which appeared in the Hindu, dated 28th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the present sex ratio, State-wise;

(c) the sex ratio during 1991 and 2001 and increase and decrease thereof State-wise;

(d) the names of the countries where population is similar to Indian population; and

(e) the action plan of Government to minimize/equalize the sex population in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the State-wise sex ratios in the latest year (2001) and those along with changes during 1991-2001 is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) In terms of total population there is no country having similar population to Indian population. China is having the highest population (1277 million in 2000) followed by India (1027 milllion in 2001).

(e) The Government of India has enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 for preventing misuse of sex determination tests. The implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States/UTs. Other important steps taken by the Government of India are stated below:

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provision of the Act.

The State/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organisations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. After the Census 2001 figures on sex ratio were available, letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focused attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Statement

State/UT-wise ratio during 1991 and 2001 and Increase/Decrease thereof

India and State/Union Territory/District	Sex ratio 1991	Sex ratio 2001	Increase/ Decrease
1	2	3	4
INDIA	927	933	6
Jammu and Kashmir	896	900	4
Himachal Pradesh	976	970	–6
Punjab	882	874	–8
Chandigarh*	790	773	–17
Uttaranchal	936	964	28
Haryana	865	861	–4
Delhi*	827	821	–6
Rajasthan	910	922	12
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	22
Bihar	907	921	14
Sikkim	878	875	–3
Arunachal Pradesh	859	901	42
Nagaland	886	909	23
Manipur	958	978	20
Mizoram	921	938	17
Tripura	945	950	5
Meghalaya	955	975	20
Assam	923	932	9

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	917	934	17
Jharkhand	922	941	19
Orissa	971	972	1
Chhattisgarh	985	990	5
Madhya Pradesh	912	920	8
Gujarat	934	921	–13
Daman & Diu*	969	709	–260
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	952	811	–141
Maharashtra	934	922	–12
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	6
Karnataka	960	964	4
Goa	967	960	–7
Lakshadweep*	943	947	4
Kerala	1036	1058	22
Tamil Nadu	974	986	12
Pondicherry*	979	1001	22
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	818	846	28

**Source* : Census 2001—Provisional Population Totals, O/O Registrar General of India.

Bio-terrorism threats

2152. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formed any expert group of scientists and officials of investigating agencies to look into thoroughly the bio-terrorism threats as the FBI had been doing in the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;